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MIAMI, FLORIDA 33132

September 30, 1974

The Editor  
The Miami Herald  
Miami, Florida 33132

Dear Sir:

I am greatly distressed over the efforts being made by Senators Fulbright, Javits and Pell to reestablish diplomatic relations with Cuba.

As I wrote President Ford a few days ago, Cuba is probably the most critical international problem with which the United States is faced and resumption of diplomatic relations, which were broken off by President Eisenhower and not resumed by either Presidents Kennedy, Johnson or Nixon, should not, in my opinion, be considered by the present Administration under any circumstances.

We have watched Castro convert Cuba into a Russian missile, submarine and bomber base, greatly endangering the security of the United States. He maintains guerilla training camps and actively conducts clandestine Red guerrilla operations in Central and South American countries.

Castro has confiscated, without compensation, all private business in Cuba whether owned by Cubans, United States citizens or other nationals.

He has cruelly enslaved the Cuban people of all economic levels, confiscating their property and driving over a million of them into exile. Those who remain (not by choice) lead completely regimented and poverty stricken lives, unable to practice their religion, spied upon by Government agents in every block, practically on a starvation diet because Castro has bled the country of all its normal resources in order to finance his subversive activities.

I am informed that somewhere in the neighborhood of 150,000 political prisoners are held in Castro's prisons.

He has established in the Sierra Maestra, overlooking our Naval Base in Guantánamo, extremely powerful artillery, missiles and

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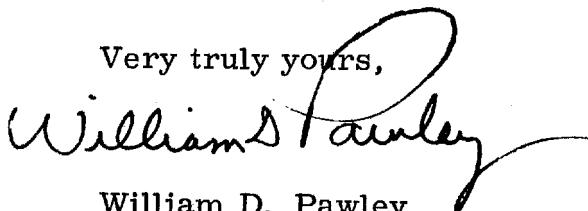
weapons furnished by the Russians to threaten our Base.

Cuba is an active Russian air and naval base. Soviet submarine crews are flown from Cuba to the USSR, for rest and recreation, using Canada as an intermediate stop. Several Russian bombers are on a Cuban airfield as this letter is written, and last week two guided-missile cruisers were in Havana harbor. Cuba today is more a Russian satellite than ever before.

All of this is a tremendous drain on Russia's resources. It takes two to three billion dollars a year to maintain this military base sixty miles from U.S. soil, and Russia is hopeful that the U.S. will resume diplomatic relations with Cuba, so that our country's economic aid, plus trade and tourism which would inevitably follow, would help Cuba's economic situation sufficiently to relieve Russia of this terrible financial burden, while keeping Cuba firmly in the communist's political orbit.

Castro is a sadistic assassin and continues to be outspokenly anti-U.S. Even as Senators Javits and Pell were in Cuba trying to improve relations, Castro made a speech in which he harrangued President Ford and Secretary Kissinger, suggested that all developing nations join the oil-producing countries in a "Third World" alliance against the United States, and proclaimed himself to be our bitter enemy.

Very truly yours,

  
William D. Pawley

Former Ambassador to  
Peru and Brazil

WDP:jhm

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Copy to:

The President  
Secretary of State  
Secretary of Defense  
Secretary of the Navy  
Chief of Naval Operations  
Senator J. W. Fulbright  
Senator Jacob K. Javits  
Senator Claiborne Pell  
Senator Barry Goldwater  
Senator Strom Thurmond  
Senator James O. Eastland  
Senator Roman L. Hruska  
Senator Sam J. Ervin  
Senator Norris Cotton  
Lt. General Vernon A. Walters,  
Deputy Director, C. I. A.  
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Diario de las Americas  
Patria Newspaper

The Washington Post  
The Washington Star



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